

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

|                               |   |                               |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| RFR HOLDING LLC and           | ) |                               |
| CENTURY 21 CHICAGO, LLC       | ) |                               |
|                               | ) |                               |
| Plaintiffs,                   | ) | No. 08CV1555                  |
|                               | ) |                               |
| v.                            | ) |                               |
|                               | ) | Judge Wayne R. Andersen       |
| PONTE GADEA FLORIDA, INC. and | ) |                               |
| CHICAGO MICHIGAN, LLC,        | ) | Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Cole |
|                               | ) |                               |
| Defendants.                   | ) |                               |

**DEFENDANTS' 12(b)(6) MOTION TO DISMISS PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT**

Defendants, Ponte Gadea Florida, Inc. ("Ponte Gadea") and Chicago Michigan, LLC ("Chicago Michigan"), by their undersigned attorneys, hereby move this Court to dismiss with prejudice the Complaint filed by Plaintiffs RFR Holding LLC ("RFR Holding") and Century 21 Chicago, LLC ("Century 21 Chicago"), pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

This case pits an original, but unsuccessful, contract purchaser of certain retail property ("Property"), Plaintiff Century 21 Chicago,<sup>1</sup> against the subsequent, and successful, contract purchaser of the Property, Defendant Chicago Michigan.<sup>2</sup> When Century 21 Chicago contracted with 730 North Michigan Avenue, LLC ("Seller") to purchase the Property, it agreed that neither it, nor its representatives (*i.e.*, RFR Holding), would share any confidential information about the Property with anyone else or "market or offer the Property for sale." Yet, that is exactly what Century 21 Chicago and RFR Holding did. They shared confidential information about the

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<sup>1</sup> Plaintiffs describe the other Plaintiff, RFR Holding LLC, as "an affiliate of one of the two members of Century 21 Chicago." (Compl., ¶ 3).

<sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs describe the other Defendant, Chicago Michigan, LLC, as "an affiliate of" Ponte Gadea Florida, Inc. (Compl., ¶ 8).

Property with, and marketed the Property to, Defendant Ponte Gadea “and its affiliates” (*i.e.*, Chicago Michigan). In so doing, RFR Holding required Ponte Gadea to enter into a letter agreement (“Confidentiality Agreement”) that, in turn, forbid Ponte Gadea and its affiliates from sharing the confidential information about the Property. It also forbid Ponte Gadea and its affiliates from discussing the Property with the Seller. *After* Century 21 Chicago terminated its contract with Seller, Ponte Gadea did discuss the Property with the Seller and, eventually, Chicago Michigan purchased the Property. Plaintiffs now sue Defendants for breach of the Confidentiality Agreement and for tortious interference with Plaintiffs’ purported prospective economic advantage. Neither claim can stand, as a matter of law.

Plaintiffs’ claim for breach of the Confidentiality Agreement (Count I) fails because the sweeping, unlimited prohibition on Defendants’ ability to discuss the Property with the Seller is void. And, even if the prohibition were enforceable, it was expired and Defendants’ compliance with it was excused once Plaintiffs no longer had a contractual right to buy the Property.

Plaintiffs’ tortious interference claim (Count II) fails for three independent reasons. First, the claim is duplicative of Plaintiffs’ attempted breach of contract claim. Second, tortious interference with prospective economic advantage cannot lie against Defendants because they are not strangers to the business relations that existed between Plaintiffs and the Seller, as required. Third, Plaintiffs fail to sufficiently allege certain necessary elements of such a claim, including: (i) a reasonable expectancy of entering into a future business relationship with Seller (when Plaintiffs admit that Century 21 Chicago terminated its contract with the Seller); and (ii) an intentional and unjustified interference by Defendants that induced a loss of the purported business expectancy.

In support of this Motion, Defendants incorporate by reference their Memorandum of Law in Support of Defendants' 12(b)(6) Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Complaint, filed concurrently herewith.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated herein and in Defendants' incorporated Memorandum of Law in Support, Defendants Ponte Gadea Florida, Inc. and Chicago Michigan, LLC respectfully request that this Court enter an Order: (a) dismissing Plaintiffs' Complaint in its entirety with prejudice; and (b) awarding Defendants all such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: May 7, 2008

PONTE GADEA FLORIDA, INC. and  
CHICAGO MICHIGAN, LLC

By: /s/ Rita M. Alliss Powers  
One of Their Attorneys

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